

Up and Down Mount Sinai

Exodus Chapter 19

- Exd 19:1 **1) Going Up! #1** vs 1 - 8a **A PROMISE**
In the third month after the sons of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day they came into the wilderness of Sinai.
- Exd 19:2 When they set out from Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and camped in the wilderness; and there Israel camped in front of the mountain.
- It has been approximately one year since Moses from the burning bush God say, "*Certainly I will be with thee; and this [shall be] a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.*" Exodus 3:12
 - Israel will be here for just short of one year. Numbers 10:11+12 tells us the next time they move. "*And it came to pass on the twentieth [day] of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from off the tabernacle of the testimony. And the children of Israel took their journeys out of the wilderness of Sinai; and the cloud rested in the wilderness of Paran.*"
- Exd 19:3 **UP** Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel:
- Exd 19:4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and {how} I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself.
- God first lets Israel know that the coming promises and commandments are based upon Himself establishing the relationship first.
 - "I bore you" "I brought you to Myself"
 - 1 John 4:19 "*We love him, because he first loved us.*"
- Exd 19:5 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;
- "IF" is a conditional clause.
 - What things must Israel do to be God's own possession or special people (KJV = peculiar people; NKV = special people).
 - Obey His Voice
 - Keep His Covenant
- Exd 19:6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."
- God called the people to be a holy nation and a kingdom of priests.
 - The same is true for you and me.
 - 1 Peter 2:9 Paul tells us that we also are priests and a holy nation unto God "*...you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR {God's} OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD*"
 - Revelation 1:6 tells us that we are a kingdom and priests in His kingdom. "*has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father-to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.*"
- Exd 19:7 **DOWN** So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him.
- Exd 19:8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do!"
- The people said they would obey. It won't last long. They will have to be re-told and re-commit to the covenant (Exodus 24:1-8)
- UP** **2) Going Up! #2** vs 8b - 19 **A PREPARATION**
And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.
- Exd 19:9 The LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will come to you in a thick cloud, so that the people may

hear when I speak with you and may also believe in you forever." Then Moses told the words of the people to the LORD.

- God wanted the people to hear that God spoke with Moses to give them the confidence that Moses was actually speaking with God. So that the people would believe Moses.
- Role of a Priest - One who speaks to God on man's behalf; and one who speaks to man on God's behalf.
- We are to be a kingdom of priests.

Exd 19:10 The LORD also said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments;

Exd 19:11 and let them be ready for the third day, for on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

- Hosea 6:1+2 "Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight."

Exd 19:12 "You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Beware that you do not go up on the mountain or touch the border of it; whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.

Exd 19:13 'No hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot through; whether beast or man, he shall not live.' When the ram's horn sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain."

- God had set boundaries for the Israelites. OLD TESTAMENT
- God tells us in the NEW TESTAMENT to Draw Near Boldly in Hebrews 10:19-22 "*Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And [having] an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*"
- Man or animal would be treated as unclean (not allowed to touch them) and stoned if they touched the mountain.
- They could only come up to the mountain by invitation.
- God sets boundaries that meet His intentions.
 - He is Holy / We are not.
 - He is teaching a proper way to approach God is His way.
 - He is showing this is severely important by placing a severe consequence on disobedience.

Exd 19:14 So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people, and they washed their garments.

Exd 19:15 He said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not go near a woman."

- No where in scripture does it teach sexual relationship between a man and his wife is unclean. In this singular unique instance God desired people to be consecrated towards one thing. The Third Day.

Exd 19:16 So it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who {were} in the camp trembled.

- The Third day
 - Thunder and Lightening
 - Thick Cloud
 - VERY LOUD TRUMPET (From Heaven)
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-54 "*Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*"

Exd 19:17 And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

- Moses brought the people to meet God.
- God invaded four of their five senses
 - Sight a Cloud, Lightening (vs 16)
 - Hearing Thunder and a Trumpet getting louder and louder (vs 16 + 19)
 - Smell Smoke (vs 18)
 - Touch the mountain quaked violently (vs 18)

Exd 19:18 Now Mount Sinai {was} all in smoke because the LORD descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently.

Exd 19:19 When the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with thunder.

- God and Moses spoke in front of the people

Exd 19:20 **3) Going Up! #3** vs 20 - 25 **A WARNING**

UP

The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; and the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

- This prophet is in pretty good shape. 80 years old and he is running up and down this mountain.

Exd 19:21 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Go down, warn the people, so that they do not break through to the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish.

- Moses gets up there and God says "Go Down."
- I would have asked "couldn't you have told me down there?"
- This demonstrates the obedience of God's man. He is willing to do exactly what the Lord wants him to do even if it is trying and seemingly odd.

Exd 19:22 "Also let the priests who come near to the LORD consecrate themselves, or else the LORD will break out against them."

Exd 19:23 Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for You warned us, saying, 'Set bounds about the mountain and consecrate it.' "

- Moses asks "Didn't we already do this?"

Exd 19:24 Then the LORD said to him, "Go down and come up {again,} you and Aaron with you; but do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD, or He will break forth upon them."

Exd 19:25 So Moses went down to the people and told them.

DOWN

- Moses went back down to give the warning to the people for he knew he would be going back up.
- With the heart of man, the danger is that they will feel they can go up the mountain. Moses can. Why can't I?
- Smoke and Fire: the fear and power of God can keep people from sin for a little while. In a few weeks the Israelites will be sinning with an idol of a golden calf.
- They had an awe of God which motivated them. But what they needed was submission of their will to God.
- Hebrews 12:18-24 tells us loud and clear that under the New Covenant we come to a different mountain, that our salvation and relationship with God is centered at Mount Zion, not Mount Sinai.

• Sinai speaks of fear and terror,	Zion speaks of love and forgiveness.
• Sinai is in a dry desert,	Zion is the city of the Living God.
• Sinai, with all its fear and power is earthly;	Mount Zion we come to is heavenly and spiritual.
• At Sinai, only Moses could come and meet God;	Zion, there is an innumerable company, a general assembly.
• Sinai had guilty men in fear,	Zion has just men made perfect.
• At Sinai, Moses is the mediator,	Zion, Jesus the mediator.
• Sinai put forth an Old covenant,	Zion has a New Covenant, ratified by the blood
ratified by the blood of animals;	of God's precious Son.

- Sinai was all about barriers and exclusion; Zion is all about invitation.
- Sinai is all about Law, Zion is all about grace. (Guzik)

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